

How Can I Get Help?

The Don't Borrow Trouble El Paso (DBT) Campaign is here to help you make informed financial decisions when seeking a loan. The campaign aims to:

- * Educate you about the dangers of predatory loans
- * Help you identify predatory loans
- * Link you to resources that may help you with your situation

Specifically, the DBT Campaign can assist you through the following ways:

DBT Website

DBT has launched www.elpasotexas.gov/DBT which contains a great deal of bilingual (English /Spanish) information on such topics as ways to identify predatory and high cost loans, contact information for all DBT partners, resources to help you file a complaint, downloadable flyers, and much more!

2-1-1 Toll-Free Referral Hotline

DBT is a member of the Texas # 2-1-1 network, a toll-free line operated by the El Paso City County Health and Environment District. Dial 2-1-1 anytime of day or night, 7 days a week, and an operator will be able to give you referrals to DBT partners, or see the chart on this brochure to find out which DBT partner might be able to meet your needs. If you call Mon. — Fri. between the hours of 8 a.m.— 5 p.m., you will speak to an operator located in El Paso.

Free Legal Clinics

Free legal clinics are held once a month at the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid office (a DBT Partner), located at 1331 Texas Ave. (corner of Texas and Newman) from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of the month of December. Clinic topics include mortgages, foreclosures, consumer loans, credit cards, and basic bankruptcy. Please contact 585-5100 for additional information.

For More Information, Contact Don't Borrow Trouble (DBT) Partners!!!

Better Business Bureau Paso Del Norte

www.bbb.org
communications@bbbpaso.org
(915) 577-0191
720 Arizona Ave.
El Paso, TX 79902

City of El Paso, Community Development, Housing Programs Division

tirresal@elpasotexas.gov
www.elpasotexas.gov/commdev/
(915) 541-4639
2 Civic Center Plaza, 8th floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the YWCA

www.ywcaelpaso.org
cccs@ywcaelpaso.org
(915) 356-CCCS (2227)
Contact: Rocio Castruita
1600 Brown St.
El Paso, TX 79902

El Paso Affordable Housing Credit Union Service Organization

www.epcuah.com
epaffordablehousing@sbcglobal.net
(915) 838-9608
6801 Viscount Blvd.
El Paso, Texas 79925

El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development

www.ep-collab.org
(915) 590-1210 or (915) 590-1217
One Stop Business Resource Center, Room 538
1359 Lomaland Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79935

El Paso Housing Finance Corporation

www.elpasohfc.org
duranax@elpasotexas.gov
(915) 545-0330 to receive a flyer by mail
or (915) 541-4476 for other questions
El Paso HFC, City Hall
2 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd floor
El Paso, TX 79901

GECU

www.gecu-ep.org
SmartCall (915) 778-9221

Housing Authority of the City of El Paso

www.hacep.org
sgonzalez@hacep.org
(915) 849-3629 or 849-3742
Fax: (915) 849-3799
For the Homeownership Program,
5300 E. Paisano Dr.
El Paso, TX 79905

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

www.trla.org
receptionistelp@trla.org
For information, contact: (915) 585-5100 or for
an appointment contact (915) 585-5183
1331 Texas Ave.
El Paso, TX 79901

Tierra Del Sol Housing Corporation

www.tierradelsohousing.org
Contact: (575) 882-3554
880 Anthony Dr., Suite 3C & D
Anthony, NM 88021



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Don't fall victim to aggressive marketing when it comes to borrowing money. Some lenders offer products that are not in your best interest. They may fail to explain, or explain only in "fine print," the terms of the loan contract. Some lenders may try to sell you loans with unwarranted high interest rates. Beware of loans such as single "balloon" mortgages, payday loans, rent-to-own arrangements, or tax refund anticipation loans. These types of loan products could put you in a worse financial situation than where you started. Don't be fooled!

Don't Borrow Trouble El Paso is a partnership of local organizations working to educate and empower El Pasoans on the consequences of high cost loans.

What Is Don't Borrow Trouble?

The Don't Borrow Trouble (DBT) Campaign is an educational campaign committed to combating predatory lending practices in the El Paso region through consumer education and awareness. Its immediate primary objective is to provide information and education to consumers and homeowners, allowing them to make sound decisions regarding their finances and lending options.

DBT is designed to strengthen the financial capacity of the community and prevent unscrupulous lenders from taking advantage of uninformed and/or vulnerable consumers. Predatory lending practices consist of various financing and loan-products that negatively affect consumer's financial health. While "predatory lending" may have many definitions, the following illustrates its destructive nature:

- High interest rates and fees which are not substantiated by the borrower's credit worthiness
- Short minimum loan term with rollover loan at additional cost
- Some single balloon payment loans. In situations where single payment loans are used as interim financing, this may be a fair option although consideration of all of the loan terms should be examined in making this decision.
- Loan flipping where the borrower goes into the transaction agreeing to a certain loan product and ends up with another less favorable loan product
- No consideration of borrower's ability to pay
- High deferred check fees and charges
- Mandatory arbitration clause in loan agreements
- Circumventing state laws to charge more fees or interest
- Steering credit worthy borrowers to sub-prime loans
- Charging discount points which do not lower the interest rate or lower the borrower's monthly mortgage payment
- Adding undisclosed products to loans as a condition of the loan such as: Credit Life Insurance, Credit Card Accident and Health Insurance or substandard warranties (products such as the ones mentioned should never be made conditions of the loan)
- Abusive pre-payment penalties on loans
- Targeting borrowers to aggressive sales tactics.

Many times, borrowers come from vulnerable groups such as minority populations, the elderly, young adults, and persons with limited financial knowledge, thereby making them especially susceptible to these abusive loans.

Our Partners

- Better Business Bureau — Paso Del Norte (BBB)
- City of El Paso, Community Development, Housing Programs Division (City of EP)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the YWCA (CCCS)
- El Paso Affordable Housing Credit Union Service Organization (CUSO)
- El Paso Collaborative for Economic and Community Development (EP Collab)
- El Paso Housing Finance Corporation (HFC)
- GECU
- Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP)
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA)
- Tierra Del Sol Housing Corporation (TDS)

Fast Cash is the Wrong Path

Don't let quick and easy offers take you in the wrong direction.



	BBB	City of EP	CCCS	CUSO	EP Collab	HFC	GECU	HACEP	TRLA	TDS
Alternative Loans					X					X
Predatory Lending Issues			X	X	X				X	
Credit Counseling / Debt Management	X		X	X			X			X
Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance		X		X	X	X	X	*only for Section 8 participants		X
Homebuyer Education			X	X	X		X			X
Financial Education	X		X	X	X		X			X
Foreclosure (counseling, prevention, loss mitigation)			X	X					X	X
Low Interest Mortgage Loan		X		X	X	X	X	*only for Section 8 participants		
Rehabilitation of Homes— Financial Assistance		X			X					X
Reverse Mortgage Education			X	X						X
HUD Approved Counseling Center			X	X						
IDA Individual Development Account (form of savings account)			X	X	X		X			X
Savings/Checking Account							X			
Rental Assistance								*only for Section 8 participants		X
Fair Housing		X		X					X	
Legal Advice & Assistance									X	
Income Tax Preparation (Free for Low-Income Individuals)			X	X	X			X		